THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 9.9.2002, Air Seychelles flight HM 017 left Mumbai Airport at the scheduled time for Male and Seychelles. 30 minuts before approach of Male Airport, a passenger by name Shri Chandra Basu Sashi Raj, threatened one of the Air hostesses with a knife and wanted to enter the cockpit forcibly. He was overpowered by the crew of the aircraft and on arrival at Male Airport, he was handed over to the Male Authorities. The investigation has revealed that this was on act of individual of unstable mind.

(c) To further tighten security, BCAS has reiterated instructions regarding secondary ladder point checks to all airlines.

Indians imprisoned in foreign jails

1537. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians imprisoned in foreign jails as on date;

(b) the number of prisoners in jails more than five and ten years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government of India to get them released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The number of Indians imprisoned in foreign jails is 8994. The period of their imprisonment is not available with the Government.

(c) Indian Missions abroad liaise with the host Government for speedy and fair trail. Legal advice is provided wherever relevant and all attempts to obtain remission of sentence, commutation or pardon are made where the law of the receiving State permits.

Latest equipments installed at airports to fight terrorism

1538. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Home Minister and the Civil Aviation authorities are bringing in the latest technology in bi-metrics to fight terrorism;

(b) if so, whether under a pilot project sophisticated eye scanners and other equipment has been installed at Mumbai and Delhi airport;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) to what extent it has been helpful; and

(e) whether all the airports in India will be provided such scanners and other equipments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Taking into consideration the latest developments in the field of technology, the Government has decided to look for a better access control system.

(b) to (e) A decision has been taken to introduce a new Photo Identity Card with higher security features but which is not Biometric Based from 1.1.2003 at all airports, including Delhi and Mumbai.

In the long run, the existing Photo Identity card for airport access is to be replaced by biometric Based Smart Card. The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security is in the midst of a process of preparing a Pilot Project for introduction of Biometric Based Smart Card at Delhi Airport to control entry of the employees of various organizations working at airport and those who are required to go to the airports frequently on functional necessity. There is no proposal to bring sophisticated Eye Scanner and other equipments.

Terrorist incidents

†1539. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that terrorist incidents have been taking place in the various States of the country for the last three years;

(b) if so, the names of the states in which terrorist incidents, which are cross-border instigated, occurred between January, 1999 to October, 2002; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.